

FIRST EDITION

THE ECUMENICAL COUNCIL.

Position and Work-Celebration of the Vigil of the Nativity—Political Condition of the Papal Kingdom.

Rome, Friday, Dec. 24.—The walls of Rome are pasted over with placards of ecclesiastical books lately published, and now with a long list of names from the Pope laying down the law for schismatics, heretics, and all sorts of offenders. It fills several columns in the newspaper of the city. The leading Catholic organ, the Oletia Cattolica, has given Pius IX the title of the "Pope of Prodiges," and his Holiness seems to have fairly earned it.

What with allocutions, bulls, circular letters, council calls and maledictions, he hardly gives the world any rest. An unusual stir has been necessary, during the past ten years, to preserve the life of the Papacy at Rome, in a financial and political sense. The present is now made in a journal of authority, that during the period named a sum equal to 100,000,000 of francs has been poured into the treasury by voluntary contributions.

THE COUNCIL'S POSITION AND WORK.

There is not to be another general meeting of the Council or one for an allocation or the publication of decrees, until the Epiphany, the 6th of January. Meanwhile reunions are held nearly every day, without formality, either in the hall over the great altar, in a chamber of the Vatican, or in the hall of St. Peter's. Something is said about going to the palace of the Lateran. The Fathers only appear in full episcopal livery, with their capes and mitres, on the occasion when the Pope presides. It is a general opinion among clerical people that the Council will not be held until the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, near the last of June.

It is the wish not to expose the lives of so many, whose services are precious, to the heat and unhealthiness of the months of midsummer in Rome. The Council will be held in St. Peter's, about which so much has been said, far from having the dainty accommodations which have been so often described. There are no writing desks and praying stools, such as have been spoken of, but only rows of plain benches with high backs and no stuffing, covered with a somewhat rich carpet of green and yellow, resembling gold. The room has been found somewhat unwieldy, if such a term may be used, and the council itself is a bulky body, regarded in bulk, numbering something like eight hundred—the size of a military regiment, which we know can be less easily handled in a narrow space than in the open field. The speakers can only with great difficulty make themselves heard. The voice never goes long without being drowned again before reaching the ear. But this elephant can find plenty of pasturage in other parts of Rome, a full of great rooms.

CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY.

To-night, the vigil of the Nativity, Cardinals and Bishops will take part in a ceremony at Santa Maria Maggiore, which is repeated every year, and is made as much of as any other of the Christmas season. In that grand old basilica is deposited what is believed by the faithful to be the trough or manger in which the Saviour was laid at the time of his birth. This cradle consists of three pieces of plank roughly put together, and pretty shabby with the rust of time. It is inclosed in a cabinet of very splendid crystal and silver gilt.

Within is deposited a figure of an infant in polished metal, resting on a bed of straw. The hole was designed by the French architect Le Sueur. On each side are rows of crystals and gilt, containing fragments of the swaddling-clothes of the infant Saviour, and a single straw from the manger. These objects, thus enshrined, may be inspected in one of the chapels next the sanctuary, where they are deposited. Their midday before Christmas, these relics are carried in procession around the church on a platform, supported by Cardinals, with the peal of litanies and the smoke of incense and candles.

According to the record, which, of course, no good Catholic is permitted to doubt, the Emperor St. Hadrian caused to be transported to Rome the stable in which the Saviour was born, and the greater part of this is now deposited under the altar of a chapel in the crypt of Santa Maggiore. Other fragments of the manger are deposited in the shrine of red porphyry under the high altar. This shrine has of late years been much enriched with the incrustations of the most costly marble.

POLITICAL ROME.

The story of the political condition of Rome is told. The ancient walls stand in ancient principles of barbarism. The life of the Roman is one of moral and political imprisonment. At the gates progress, truth, and hope are put back. Light is shut out, and for the life of the intellect substituted a superstitious brooding, and prayers in a dead tongue. Man is a creature of habit, and what he is taught to think, and do, he is. Most of these priests and monks believe that to Rome and to them is exclusively committed the precious treasure of divine truth. They are sincere in their ignorance, and love it. They are the victims of an unenlightened confidence. Only the force of new law can drive them from their follies, and only the political convenience of a ruler holding precarious power in another country is the obstacle to reform.

The present condition of Rome is a scandal to the civilization of our time. And this is said not in passion, as by one apt to indulge the language of extravagant praise or condemnation, but the verdict of a conviction formed on the knowledge of ample observation. It is the error of the ancient system that the acceptance of a dogma is made of far greater importance than the acceptance and practice of principles upon which character must be established. The Pope and those around him claim to be angels sent down out of Heaven to manage politically, as well as spiritually, human affairs—a very convenient mode of calculated to cause much trouble, if anything like it were possible. But no one ever heard of angels making themselves rich by a tobacco monopoly, or speculations in the salt tax, as Antioch and some of his associates have done. Providence, since a very remote date, has preferred to use human instruments instead of angels, to manage State affairs, and it is only one of the trials of our fallen nature to watch sharply that fallible agents do not abuse their trust. After the British aristocracy, there is no instrument of government so cunningly devised as that of the Roman hierarchy.

GHOSTS AND FLOATING HEADS.

How to Hire an Actor—He Must be Paid for His Time, Whether He Performs or Not. In the Marine Court, before Judge Curtis, Mr. Sylvester sued Jarrett & Falmer, as proprietors of the Tammany for two weeks' salary from the 13th to the 28th of November. Jarrett & Falmer, as proprietors in Court were Harry Jarrett, Leonard Grover, Burr Grover, Vincent, stage manager at Niblo's, Nickle, the prestidigitator, and Mr. Daly.

Mr. Sylvester swore that after corresponding with the defendants he had accepted an engagement of \$20 per week for himself and three others, to last three or six months. In one of his letters he made mention of sixteen illusions, eleven magical tricks, and four effects that composed his repertory, and bargained to give his personal services and brains only.

Mr. Leonard Grover testified that Mr. Sylvester had not complied with the strict letter of his contract, and did not perform certain acts, as he had not the apparatus to do them with. He did not discharge Sylvester, but told him he could have no money until he performed some of these acts.

Mr. Jarrett testified that the masks and faces

exhibited by Mr. Sylvester were not so good as those which Mr. Sylvester told Mr. Jarrett he could supply. Robert Nickle testified thus—I am a magician or prestidigitator. I have introduced

THE FLOATING HEAD. which requires a mirror of eight feet square. I saw Mr. Sylvester's magic performances. Mr. Sylvester's specialty is Masks and Faces, but as a magician, I should call myself his superior. (Laughter.)

THE GHOST CHAMBER and built the table for the Masks and Faces. Mr. Sylvester did not produce the Enchanted Canopy on the Monday night as advertised. It was not my fault that the performance was not given. I was not ready. The glass used came from a libel against the ghost.

B. H. Grover testified that he had heard L. Grover tell Mr. Sylvester that if he did not give certain performances there would be no money for him. He was requested to do

THE WATER CASCADE. but said his machinery had not arrived. I am not sure what the conversations were exactly. I know of several instances of performers traveling with the ghost illusion. I once assisted in producing it, on which occasion the glass was produced by me as exhibited. I did not see any large quantity of baggage belonging to Mr. Sylvester. I did not furnish him a room for his baggage.

Mr. McVane testified thus—I am stage manager of the Tammany. Mr. Sylvester did not produce the canopy scene until a week after the time he had promised; the ghost illusion was not produced until a week after the time he had promised. Sylvester recalled—I was to perform the "Enchanted Canopy" on Monday night, but nothing was ready for me, the carpenter's work not done. I am the inventor and patentee of "The Ghost," and

THE SPHINX. All my apparatus was in the Tammany before I arrived. I have over a dozen wagon loads of baggage. I expect to give my personal services and brains, and do not furnish properties. I had all the apparatus customary among men of my profession. I used to receive my salary in portions of \$25 at a time.

Mr. Taylor, who acted as lawyer for the defense, said that the case lay in the one point, "Did this man fulfill his contract?" He showed that in one of his letters he promised to give about thirty performances, and during the four months he was at the Tammany he gave only three. He did not keep his contract, because he had not

THE APPARATUS, and even wanted no advance before leaving London to purchase apparatus. I think, gentlemen, you will find that the plaintiff has broken the contract, and is not entitled to a verdict.

Mr. Gross, for the plaintiff, said that the defendants had not discharged Mr. Sylvester, and he was always to do what might be required of him. Mr. Sylvester carried all the apparatus he was expected to. Fechter is not expected to carry his scenery with him, or even

FOUR YORCK'S SCULL.

All that he furnishes are personal services and wardrobe. I think, gentlemen, you will see the justice of our claim and give us a verdict. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for \$300 gold.—N. Y. Sun, to-day.

GENERALITIES.

A Life for a Patent. About a year ago last June, Judge Blatchford, of New York, virtually sentenced William Miller to imprisonment for life for a violation of the law in relation to patents. The prisoner, who is advanced in life, was charged with making India rubber combs. In that grand old basilica is deposited what is believed by the faithful to be the trough or manger in which the Saviour was laid at the time of his birth. This cradle consists of three pieces of plank roughly put together, and pretty shabby with the rust of time. It is inclosed in a cabinet of very splendid crystal and silver gilt.

The Judge decided against him, and sentenced him to pay a fine of \$2500, and to remain in prison till paid. But Miller is poor, and hence he is doomed to inhabit a cell for life. An application for his release has been made to Judge Blatchford, but he declined, it is said, to interfere further in the case, as he had no power. Not long ago, ex-Deputy Marshal McCoy, who arrested Miller, applied to the lawyer of the patentees to ask his release of Judge Blatchford, but he replied curtly that "neither the President of the United States, nor Judge Blatchford, nor the Governor of New York, could release him without my consent, and I'm going to keep him in prison."

How much better it would have been for poor Miller to have been a drawback ticket than a manufacturer of india rubber combs!

Torturing a School Girl to Death.

A little girl, nine years old, attending a public school in Manchester, N. H., was reported to her lesson correctly on Thursday, was required to repeat on Friday the lesson for that day and the day previous. She failed again, and as a punishment was required to stand on the floor in a passage way while she learned it. She stood for an hour, and was compelled afterward to stand in the school room five hours longer, until she had learned Thursday's lesson, and for another hour trying to learn Friday's. On Saturday her legs began to swell, and she suffered intensely, soon becoming delirious, trying to repeat the lesson, and on the occasion of her punishment, and entreating her teacher for leave to take her seat. A few days after this ordeal death ended the child's agony. The School Committee's investigation resulted in finding that the teacher was guilty of an error in judgment.

A cargo of Bitters Sent to Antwerp.

The Office of the City of Brooklyn has been playing a very shabby trick upon the merchants of Antwerp. The steamer Alpha was laden at Philadelphia with what purported to be a comparatively harmless cargo of petroleum, but what, to the amazement of the sturdy Hollanders, turned out to be kerosene, a compound more explosive than New York kerosene—in fact, a food of bittern had been let loose upon the unoffending city of Antwerp. It is claimed by the sober citizens of Philadelphia that it was all a mistake, and they are inclined to believe that a dire conspiracy has been set on foot to purge the whole Dutch nation by force.—N. Y. Times.

The Feabody Remains.

The following order has just been issued by General McDowell:—HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST, NEW YORK CITY, Jan. 17, 1870.—By direction of the President of the United States, a funeral escort of United States troops will accompany the remains of the late Mr. George Feabody from Portland, Me., to South Danvers, Mass. The escort will be composed of a battalion of the 5th Artillery, under the command of Brevet Brigadier-General B. H. Hill, Lieutenant-Colonel 5th Artillery, commanding Fort Preble, and will consist of the band of the 5th Artillery, a company of fifty men from Fort Preble, and a company of fifty men from Fort Warren, and a company of fifty men from Fort Adams.

Brevet Brigadier-General Hill will send the necessary orders direct to the several posts to bring their respective companies in time to be present on the arrival of the fleet bearing the remains from England. The troops will wear their overcoats on the march, and will be quartered and subsisted by Brevet Brigadier-General Hill at Fort Preble while awaiting the arrival of the fleet. Brevet Brigadier-General Hill will give all further orders to carry this order into effect, and to return the companies to their several stations when the duty on which they are ordered shall have been fulfilled. By command of

Brevet Major-General McDowell.

CUBA. The Situation—New Plan of Campaign—The Spaniards in a Good Position—The Cortes.

HAVANA, Jan. 15.—About a month ago nearly everybody was of opinion that the troops would clear the Ciego Villas immediately, and drive the insurgents to the Point Principe, but such a consummation has not been effected, and although the insurgents in that region are not so bold as they were formerly, they nevertheless remain in the field, and manage to avoid encounters with their valiant and well-disciplined adversaries. Fifteen thousand Spanish soldiers, fighting, or rather willing to fight, the 7000 insurgents in the Ciego Villas, have not been able to have more than a few insignificant skirmishes since the first of January; and not over twenty-five lives have been lost on both sides. All that is to be expected will never end, and the Spaniards will be compelled to make superhuman efforts in order to secure fully the line from Ciego de Arilla to Moron, and drive the Ciego Villas insurgents beyond it towards the Camaguey. The Government claims to hold the line, but of what avail is it while an enemy, numbering over 7000 men, remains in the rear, and while the enemy, in front, crosses with impunity, to effect some sudden coup de main, and retires again to their mountain fastnesses?

NEW PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.

The plan of campaign as inaugurated by the Spaniards is a good one, but it is doubtful whether it will be effective. The idea of General Rodas is to construct a road through the centre of the island, so as to be enabled to transport troops and provisions with despatch, and to construct telegraphic towers every few miles with which to connect the several detachments so that sooner may be had and combinations made in the shortest possible time; said towers to be constructed in such a manner as to answer the purposes of a fort, and to be occupied by about thirty men and a piece of artillery. If the plan is carried out, the Spaniards would be in possession of the island, and the revolution probably squelched. Whether at this late day it will prove practicable remains to be seen.

THE WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION OF PLANTATIONS IN THE CIEGO VILLAS.

The wholesale destruction of plantations in the Ciego Villas has been a sad sight to see, and we hear but little of the burning of cane-fields and sugar houses. This is probably due to the continuous marches of the numerous detachments of troops in every direction, and the vigilance exercised by the stationary guards on every plantation. Nearly every plantation in the vicinity of Trinidad is grinding and all from Cienfuegos westward, the crop proving splendid. This will enable the Spanish Government to carry on the war for another year, as the taxes and duties raised in the tranquil portions of the island are almost sufficient to pay the expenses of the strife and maintain the credit of the Spanish Bank, which, in case of necessity, will issue a few millions more of paper money.

PETITION TO THE CORTES.

To-day's Spanish mail steamer takes a very important document to Madrid in the shape of a petition signed by the Spaniards over 7000 belonging to the Carlist, Jacobin, and Isabelist ranks in Havana, and requesting the Cortes not to grant any liberties, privileges, or self-governing laws to the island of Porto Rico. The reasons for such a strange course are stated by the signers to be principally that the introduction of reforms into Porto Rico would weaken the cause of Spain in Cuba; that the Spaniards in Cuba are divided regarding their politics and the manner of enforcing them; that the inauguration of those reforms will produce a revolution in Porto Rico, which will even suppress immediately, will not efface the causes which produced it, or the ideas under which it was organized, the spark producing the flame always remaining. Also, that the enjoyment of the rights of liberty and self-governing laws by the victor and prestige of the pure Spanish element and debilitate the power of the authorities. Nothing ought to be done until Cuba is represented, and Porto Rico ought to be considered a province of Cuba. The intention of the Cortes is to grant liberties and reforms to Porto Rico, it adds, has painfully astonished the petitioners. It is a question of decorum, of interest and elevated patriotism, to await the Cuban representatives in the Cortes.

OBITUARY.

Bishop Chase, of New Hampshire. The Right Rev. Gideon C. Bishop, of the Diocese of New Hampshire, died at Claremont, in that State, on Tuesday afternoon, February 20, 1870. He was graduated at Dartmouth College in 1817, and immediately commenced the study of theology. He was ordained a deacon in the following year, and priest in 1820, by Bishop Griswold. Soon after his ordination he became rector of Immanuel Church at Bellows Falls, Vermont, where he continued his ministry until 1844. During his connection with the Bellows Falls Society the important question regarding lands granted in colonial times by Government to the Episcopal Church came up for settlement in the Supreme Court of that State, and during the litigation Mr. Chase performed very important services before his consecration. From Bellows Falls he removed to Claremont, New Hampshire, accepting the rectorship of Trinity Church. He was consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire during the same year, 1844. The State had been included in the Eastern Diocese before his consecration. In 1828 he performed all the parochial duties of his rectorship in Claremont as well as those of a bishop, but was then relieved on account of feeble health.

Bishop Chase had many difficulties to meet during the more than quarter of a century in which he was rector of the Episcopal Church in New Hampshire. The prosperity which has attended the denomination in that State is evidence of his untiring labor and energy. Every minister in the diocese, whatever his discouragements, found in him a hearty collaborator and a firm friend. He was always on terms of friendship and, indeed, affection with all other clergymen within his jurisdiction. He was universally beloved as a citizen, combining a most amiable disposition with the grace of a refined and cultivated gentleman. After the deposition of Bishop Onderdonk in New York, Bishop Chase was called to that State and filled the vacancy for a short time. In 1852 he preached the sermon at the consecration of Bishop Wainwright of New York. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity, being a Royal Arch Mason at the time of his death. In 1859 he received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from the University of Vermont.

—Maine has a mail carrier now 76 years of age, who has carried the mail daily from North Monmouth to Monmouth Court for twenty-one years, and has missed but one trip during that time.

A catamount was shot in East Killbuck, Vt., on the 8th, which measured five feet in length and weighed forty-five pounds. During the fight he killed three hounds. He was finally shot with buckshot through the heart, his last leap being fifteen feet in the air and forty-five feet forward, to an inch.

—After a trial, lasting eight days, a party of women in 1868 made a raid upon a drinking saloon in Alton, N. H., in which they knocked in the heads of barrels, broke jugs, and smashed things generally, have been sentenced to pay about \$1000 in fines and costs.

—Mr. John Powell, of Weymouth, Carbon county, Pa., a hard-working man, who has all his life been doing "odd jobs," has just ascertained that he and his brother and sister are the lawful heirs of an uncle who died some time ago in Berks county, leaving property valued at \$7,000,000.

SECOND EDITION

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

Sinking of Another Mississippi Steamer—Missouri Colored Educational Convention—Effects of the Great Tornado—Breaks in the Canal and Railway Lines.

Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc.

FROM THE WEST.

Kansas Associated Press. LEAVENWORTH, Jan. 20.—The annual meeting of the Associated Press of Kansas was held here yesterday, and was well attended. There are now seventeen daily papers published in this State that are in this association. The old officers were unanimously re-elected.

St. Louis Working Women. At a meeting of working women held this evening, steps were taken for the establishment of a co-operative store.

Dayton, Jan. 20.—A serious break has occurred in the canal near Lockport, and smaller breaks at different points south of that place. The Lockport lock is also badly damaged, and will take some time to repair it. There are five serious breaks in the banks of the canal between Hamilton and Murray's Locks; there are a large number of places on the Southern division of the canal where gravel has washed in so much as to require it to be dragged before navigation can be resumed. The damages to the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad are repaired so that trains from New York came through to-day. The Cincinnati, Sandusky, and Cleveland Road is open, the first train came through this evening. Connections are all right between Dayton and Xenia.

Colored Educational Convention of Missouri. JEFFERSON, Mo., Jan. 20.—An educational convention of colored men, former slaves of Southern States, with their more fortunate brethren who were free through living in the Southern States before the emancipation proclamation, is assembled in the Capitol of Missouri. The convention numbers about fifty delegates. J. Milton Turner, a graduate of Oberlin, and Rev. Mr. Brooks, of St. Louis, seem to be the leaders in the movement.

All shades, from nearly white to the dusky African, were present, and among them some very intelligent men. They use the best of language, and are exceedingly courteous to the presiding officer and each other, and very ambitious and tenacious of etiquette. They understand that they hold the balance of power, numbering 20,000 votes, when the disfranchised voters are again admitted to the ballot.

New Steamship Line. A delegation of prominent steamship men had an interview with the House Committee on Commerce relative to inaugurating a line of ocean steamers between New York and Liverpool. They ask for a subsidy in the shape of bonds guaranteed by the Government. The committee is adverse to the proposition.

Democratic Caucus. WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The Democratic caucus last night discussed the propriety of their party resigning their positions on the House Committee on Election, in view of the extraordinary action of the Republican majority, particularly in the case of Van Wyck, of New York. It was finally determined that the Democrats should remain on the committee.

Congress. HOUSE. Mr. Cullom offered a resolution to devote two hours to the morning hour's business on three days of the week. Referred to the Committee on Rules.

Mr. Moore (New York) presented several petitions for a lightship on Winter Quarter Shoals and for a lighthouse on Block Island.

Mr. Root introduced a bill for the payment of the 1st Arkansas Mounted Infantry Volunteers. Referred.

Mr. Pomeroy introduced a bill for the relief of settlers on certain lands in Iowa. Referred.

Mr. Blingh introduced a bill to introduce a bill making it an offense punishable with fine and imprisonment for any person to propose the repeal of the action of a State Legislature in ratifying any proposed amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. Eldridge objected to the reception of the resolution.

Mr. Golladay offered a resolution of inquiry into the right of postmasters to refuse sending through the mails franked documents not mailed at the place where the Senator or member is residing. Adopted.

Mr. Bayne offered a resolution of inquiry as to the erection of a suitable building in Albany, New York, for the United States Courts, Post Offices, and Internal Revenue offices. Adopted.

Mr. Smith (Oregon) introduced a bill to extend the provisions of an act for a railway from the Central Pacific Railway, in California, to Portland, Oregon. Referred.

Mr. Loughridge offered a preamble and resolutions declaring the absence of constitutional authority in the treaty-making power to absorb foreign territory until the consent of the House is given to it.

Mr. Wood (N. Y.) offered a resolution declaratory of the right of the House to consider the propriety and expediency of the appropriation of public money for any purpose whatever, and that the treaty-making power regulates the action of the House in any case where legislation is required to execute it. Referred.

Mr. Tyner offered a resolution of inquiry as to the propriety of removing the disabilities for desertion from soldiers who had left their regiments after the surrender of the Rebel armies.

Mr. Moore (N. Y.) offered a resolution of inquiry as to the relief of farmers from tax as produce brokers.

The House has been for the last half hour entertained by a very spicy review of Mr. Dawes' speech on extravagance by Mr. Scofield (Pa.), who intimated that Mr. Dawes' opposition to the League Island bill was prompted by resentment against the Republican members from Pennsylvania because they did not prefer him for the Speakership.

Mr. Dawes characterized such an imputation as unworthy of any member.

THIRD EDITION

WASHINGTON.

Work Before the Committees of the House—The Election Committee and the Democratic Members—Customs Receipts—Executive Appointments—Commissioner Delano and the Distillers.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Investment of Commissioner Delano. Despatch to the Associated Press. WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Commissioner Delano has received information that the convention of Kentucky distillers which met at Lexington yesterday, endorsed his action in fixing the forty-eight hours for the fermentation period in sweet mash houses, and seventy-two hours in sour mash houses, from the time of breaking up the mash.

Custom House Receipts. The following are the Custom House receipts for the week ending January 15:—Boston, \$288,637; New York, 1,917,392; Philadelphia, 131,437; Baltimore, 185,342; New Orleans, from Dec. 24 to Jan. 8, 187,488.

Assistant Assessors Appointed. The following appointments of Assistant Assessors have been made for the Thirtieth district of New York:—William Wiggins, Henry M. Cook, James Wilcox, John J. Weber, and Silas M. Dodge. The following for the Ninth district:—Edwin Skedmore Ferdinand Branden, H. Q. French, Peter Hinghaling, Albert Bogert, William P. Hall, and J. Cameron, and the following for the Twenty-third district:—John C. Hanchett and Charles J. Spaulding.

Work of the House Military Committee. Special Despatch to the Evening Telegraph. WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The House Military Committee has agreed to report a bill relieving from the charge of desertion all soldiers who, after desertion, subsequently returned to the army and served out their term of enlistment. Also, a bill extending to all officers of the army the same privileges as are enjoyed by paymasters in settling their accounts. The committee has a special meeting to-morrow to consider Mr. Logan's bill reducing the number of officers in the army.

American Citizens in Prisons. The Committee on Foreign Affairs instructed General Banks to report a resolution to the House calling upon the President for all information relative to the detention of American citizens in British prisons.

The Paraguay Investigation. The report of the Paraguay investigation will be considered at the meeting next Saturday.

The Tariff on Leather. A delegation of hide and leather dealers was before the Ways and Means Committee this morning, and made an argument in favor of reducing the tariff on Spanish and South American hides.

New Steamship Line. A delegation of prominent steamship men had an interview with the House Committee on Commerce relative to inaugurating a line of ocean steamers between New York and Liverpool. They ask for a subsidy in the shape of bonds guaranteed by the Government. The committee is adverse to the proposition.

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CONGRESS.

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PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Senate. HARRISBURG, Jan. 20.—Petitions were presented in favor of allowing the people to vote on licenses, and for the abolition of the death penalty.

Reports were made by committees on the following Senate bills:—

Requiring persons who make up medical prescriptions to be graduates of some regular medical college. Affirmatively.

Providing for the calling of a convention to make general amendments to the Constitution. Affirmatively.

Prohibiting justices of the peace from practicing law. Affirmatively.

Authorizing guardians, executors, and other fiduciary persons to avail themselves of the law allowing interested parties' testimony. Negatively.

Allowing 8 per cent. interest to be charged on special contracts as a legal rate. Negatively.

Allowing husbands and wives to testify in divorce cases. Negatively.

Preventing the destruction and injury of baggage. Affirmatively.

Senate bill vacating Pemberton lane. Affirmatively.

Authorizing railroad and canal and plank road companies to combine to issue bonds and vacate portions of their line. Affirmatively.

Supplement to the Manayunk Bridge Company. Affirmatively.

Senate bill forming a new county, to be called Petroleum, of parts of Crawford, Venango, and Warren. Affirmatively.

Senator White offered the report of a special committee to provide some means of publishing the proceedings of the two houses. It submits a contract with George Bergeron, of Harrisburg, to print the proceedings in the form of a daily legislative record, containing the actual business of the two houses, and sketches of debate, at the cost of fourteen dollars and fifty cents per page for a daily edition of six thousand copies.

Young moved to indefinitely postpone the whole subject. Finally the ratification of the contract was postponed for the present.

New bills were introduced and referred as follows:—

Mr. Connell, fixing Thursday, 17th of March, for final adjournment. Also, extending the charter of the Southern Transportation Company.

House. Senate joint resolution to print five thousand copies of the Governor's message; lost by 35